Saskatchewan
Labour
Status of
Women Office

# Profile of Saskatchewan Women

## Aboriginal Women

According to the 2001 Census, just under 14% of Saskatchewan women were Aboriginal. Aboriginal women are younger: 57% of Aboriginal females are under the age of 25, compared to 32% of non-Aboriginal females.

In 2000, the average income of Aboriginal women in Saskatchewan was $14,548 compared to $21,188 for non-Aboriginal women and $17,534 for Aboriginal men.

In the 10 years from 1991-2001 the number of Aboriginal women with university education increased from 3% to more than 8%.

The labour force participation rate for Aboriginal women between 25 and 34 years of age was 56% in 2001, compared to 83% for non-Aboriginal women in the same age range. For Aboriginal women 35 to 44 years of age, the rate was 67%, compared to 87% for non-Aboriginal women.

The unemployment rate for Aboriginal women in 2001 was 19.1%, compared to 4.4% for non-Aboriginal women.

## Immigrant Women

According to the 2001 Census, 25,295 immigrant women lived in Saskatchewan. Forty-five percent of Saskatchewan's immigrant women arrived in Canada before 1971, while 40% arrived after 1980. More recent immigrants have predominantly come from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Central and South America.

According to the 1996 Census, 43% of immigrant women arriving after 1980 had a post-secondary degree, diploma or certificate, compared to 37% of non-immigrant women.

Many recent immigrants (women arriving after 1980) work in business, health and other occupations.

Despite their high levels of education, recent immigrants are concentrated in low paying service sector industries. The 1996 Census found that the unemployment rate for recent immigrants (10%) was much higher than for non-immigrant women (7%) or women who migrated before 1980 (3 to 4%).

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## Lone Parent Women

In 2001, there were 42,065 lone parent families in Saskatchewan. More than eight out of 10 are headed by women and their families are larger, on average, than those headed by men. More than one in five children in Saskatchewan (22%) were being raised in a lone parent family in 2001.

Fifty-five percent of lone parent women, compared to 63% of lone parent men have one child at home; 28% of the women have two children, compared to 26% of the men, while 18% of the women have three or more children living at home, compared to 11% of the men.

The average family income in 2000 for families led by lone parent women was $28,473, compared to $38,374 for families led by lone parent men. The average family income for families headed by a couple was $62,023.

## Rural Women

The 2001 Census of Agriculture indicated that 23% of Saskatchewan's 50,595 farms were headed in partnership with women and 3% of all farms were operated solely by women.

In 2001, rural women (excluding women living on reserve) had average annual incomes of $18,718, compared to $21,707 for women living in urban areas and compared to $28,205 for rural men (excluding men living on reserve).

## Senior Women

Seniors make up an increasing portion of Saskatchewan's population. In 2001, adults 65 and over represented 15.1% of the total population.

Women significantly outnumber men among seniors. Women make up 57% of all seniors and 67% of those 85 years-of-age and older. Very few senior women are Aboriginal.

Between 1996 and 2001, the seniors' population grew by more than 1%, with the increase in senior females being just under 2%. The population of senior women over 90 years of age grew by 22% in the same period.

In 2000, senior women had annual total incomes of $18,801 compared to the average of $28,382 for senior men.

## Visible Minority Women

In 2001, 13,405 or slightly less than 3% of Saskatchewan women were members of a visible minority group.

Forty-one percent of visible minority women were born in Canada. The largest visible minority groups in Saskatchewan are Chinese, South/Southeast Asian, Black and Filipino. On average, visible minority women are younger than other Saskatchewan women.

In 1996, the unemployment rate for visible minority women was 9%, compared to the provincial average for women at 7%. In 1995, incomes for visible minority women were below the average for all Saskatchewan women - $13,400 compared with $15,800.

Visible minority women in Saskatchewan have higher levels of education than Saskatchewan women in general. In 1996, 22% of visible minority women had a university degree, compared to 10% of all Saskatchewan women.

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## Women with Disabilities / Activity Limitations

In 2001, the rate of disability in Saskatchewan was the second highest in Canada at 14.5%. The likelihood of having a disability increases with age, and in 2001, Saskatchewan had the highest proportion of persons aged 65 years and over of all the provinces.

The disability rate for women over 15 years of age is 18%, compared to 17% for men. Forty-five percent of senior men have a disability, compared to 44% of senior women.

Women with activity limitations had lower labour force participation rates across all ages. In 1996, 26% of women with activity limitations were in the labour force, compared to 66% of women without activity limitations.

In 1995, on average, women with activity limitations had average annual incomes of $13,700 compared to $15,800 for all Saskatchewan women.

## Violence Against Women

One in four women in Saskatchewan has experienced violence at the hands of a current or former spouse.

In 2000, there were 189 residents in shelters in Saskatchewan; 41% were women and 59% were dependent children. Ninety-six percent of women residing in shelters were victims of abuse. A high percentage of women who use shelters are of Aboriginal ancestry.

Saskatchewan's five-year prevalence rates for spousal assaults are virtually identical to the national average in that 11% of Saskatchewan women were victimized by a spouse in the five years ending in 1999, compared to 12% of women nationally.

A Government of Saskatchewan Omnibus Survey, conducted in 2001, found that 85% of Saskatchewan residents considered family violence an important public issue and 88% agreed that it is a criminal act.

Average spousal homicide rates between 1974 and 2000 were 1.44 per 100,000 couples for Saskatchewan women and .71 for Saskatchewan men.

Aboriginal women in Canada have higher average rates of spousal assault - twice as high as Aboriginal men and three times higher than non-Aboriginal women and men.

## Education

Education levels for Saskatchewan women are increasing more quickly than for men. The percentage of women with at least some post-secondary education increased from 29% to 46% between 1976 and 1996, compared with 25% to 40% for men.

In 2001, 22.6% of both men and women between the ages of 25 and 64 had a university degree, diploma or certificate. In the same age group, 23.4% of men and 22% of women had less than high school.

On an hourly basis, women with university degrees earned 83%, of what men with university degrees earned.

## Employment

In 2000, women accounted for 46% of people with paid employment, compared with 37% in 1980.

In 2000, 39% of women worked part-time (less than 30 hours per week), compared with 20% of men, and one in every 10 women in the Saskatchewan labour force held two or more jobs simultaneously.

In 2000, women working on a full-time, full-year basis earned 74.4% of what men working on a full-time, full-year basis earned, compared with 66.8% in 1980.

In 2000, women held 63% of public sector jobs and 44% of private sector jobs. Women represent 32% of the self-employed (including farmers).

## Income

In 2000, the average income of adult women (over 15 years of age) was $20,496, compared to $31,323 for males over 15 years of age.

In 2000, half of adult women had incomes under $16,000, while half of adult men had incomes of $25,250 or under.

In 1999, 69% of women's income was from employment - 64% from wages and salaries and 5% from self-employment. Government transfer payments, such as Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security/ Guaranteed Income Supplement, Social Assistance, the GST Credit, the Child Tax Benefit and Workers Compensation, represented 20% of women's income.

## Unpaid Work

In 2001, 13% of Saskatchewan women spent 60 hours or more on unpaid child care per week, compared with less than 5% of men.

In 2001, 29% of women between the ages of 25-44 spent more than 60 hours per week on unpaid child care in comparison to less than 10% of their male counterparts.

Women aged 45-64 were more than twice as likely as their male counterparts to spend 10 or more hours per week on unpaid care to seniors in 2001.

Sources:

1996 Statistics Canada Census
1999 Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey
1999 Survey of Consumer Finances & Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics
2000 Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey
2001 Statistics Canada Census
2001 Government of Saskatchewan Omnibus Survey
2002 Assessing Violence Against Women: A Statistical Profile

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